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THE CONDOR

A Magazine of
Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Avifauna number 7 is in galley proof, and with fair luck should be off the press ready for distribution to Cooper Club members by August first. The subject of this paper is "The Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California." It consists of concise statements of seasonal and geographical distribution, nesting time and manner of nidification.

Mr. W. Leon Dawson is in the field in San Luis Obispo County, doubtless successful in securing photographic studies of certain Raptores necessary to the completeness of his "Birds of California."

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California is represented in field exploration this year as follows: Mr. H. S. Swarth and Mr. H. A. Carr are at work in Owens Valley, with base stations at Lone Pine, Keeler and Independence, successively. Mr. W. P. Taylor and Mr. F. H. Holden (to be succeeded later by Mr. T. I. Storer) are tracing out the distribution of certain rodents in the Sacramento Valley. Mr. J. Grinnell, in company with Mr. J. S. Hunter, an agent of the State Fish and Game Commission, is investigating the status of game animals in the mountainous region of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern counties. All this season's work is thus within the State of California.

COMMUNICATION

EDITOR OF THE CONDOR:

Mr. H. S. Swarth in his review of my

"Monograph of the Broad-winged Hawk" feels that a few points, which he cites, could have been made more clear and explicit. In justice to my work, I would state that the evidence presented under the head of "Local Distribution" gave me no choice other than the restriction of the summer range of *Buteo platypterus platypterus* "south to Florida and Central Texas." Though Zeledon briefly states that it "breeds" in Costa Rica, and I have faithfully transcribed the comparative description and position of the nest in Central America according to Salvin and Godman, I can find no specific record of its breeding, or the capture of the bird in the breeding season, south of the line given.

Sometime before I had decided to insert a name for the small, dark Cuban bird, with the heavily banded thighs and wing lining, the entire manuscript was ready for publication, too late to upset the entire plan of the work. Also, I feel that I, a humble amateur, was not sufficiently impressed with the importance of a mere form. The Bayote specimen described on pp. 147-148, is of course the type of *Buteo platypterus cubanensis*.

Yours truly,

FRANK L. BURNS.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE HOME-LIFE | OF | THE OSPREY | Photographed and described | by | CLINTON G. ABBOTT, B. A. | Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union | with some photographs by Howard H. Cleaves, Associate of | the American Ornithologists' Union. | With thirty-two Mounted Plates | London | Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn W. C. | MCMXI. Large 8vo, cloth, pp. 1-54, pls. 1-32. In America to be bought for \$2 at Bretano's, 229 Fifth Ave., New York City.

This treatment of a single bird species is, in the recollection and judgment of the reviewer, among the most faithful, as well as comprehensive, that has ever appeared. The text is admirably composed, from both a literary standpoint and that of ornithological veracity. An element of conciseness is apparent which accounts for a compass of fifty-four pages, where a modern "nature-writer" might have made two hundred.

No less fascinating than the text are the first-quality illustrations, selected each to show some particular feature of behavior of the birds, or construction of their nests. These photographs demonstrate a very close acquaintance on the part of the author with the subject of his essay. If proof were needed, this is alone sufficient to give the reader confidence in all the details of the author's narration of his experiences with the Osprey.

It might be urged that the Osprey, in the haunts where Mr. Abbott's studies were carried on, was an easy subject, because the